

(A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

B¹ (B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and defining a total bonding area along the second direction greater than along the first direction, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the first direction different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the second direction.

B² 16. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having low tensile strength and high percent elongation in a first direction and high tensile strength and low percent elongation relative thereto in a second direction normal to the first direction, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and defining a total bonding area along the second direction greater than along the first direction, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the first direction different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the second direction, the total bonding area along the second direction being 1.1-5.0 times greater than along the first direction, thereby causing the nonwoven to have unbonded fiber portions and bonded fiber portions, with a bonded portion/unbonded portion ratio greater along the second direction than along the first direction.

20. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having low tensile strength and high elongation in a first direction and high tensile strength and low elongation relative thereto in a second direction normal to the first direction, comprising the steps of:

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B (A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and defining a total bonding area along the second direction greater than along the first direction, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the first direction different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the second direction, the bonding points defining gaps therebetween of unbonded nonwoven in the first direction of a length greater than the length of the gaps therebetween of unbonded nonwoven defined by the bonding points in the second direction.

21. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having high elongation in a first direction and low elongation relative thereto in a second direction normal to the first direction, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and having a center-to-center separation greater in the first direction than in the second direction, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the first direction different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the second direction.

24. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having low tensile strength and high elongation in the CD and high tensile strength and low elongation relative thereto in the MD, comprising the steps of:

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B (A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and being non-symmetrical in plan, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the CD different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the MD, each bonding point having an extension in the CD less than the extension in the MD.